

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
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1. At the beginning of July 1953, all workers in the North Bohemian Brown Coal Mines (Severoceske hnedomelne doly), Most, were supposed to draw their full wage for June, but after waiting until 6 or 7 July they received only a part payment (Zaloha) which amounted to from 200 to 500 Kcs. From this, tax amounting to from 40 to 80 Kcs. had to be deducted. The miners grumbled openly and said that they would reduce the output accordingly.
2. On 8 July a slowdown campaign started. A three-shift system is worked in these mines. On this occasion, the first shift, instead of filling all the hutches with coal, only filled every fifth one and sent up four empty. In some of the hutches was put a little notice: "We exchange one for five." The third and fourth shifts sent up 49 empty hutches and filled only every fiftieth, putting in the notice: "We exchange one for fifty."
3. On 9 July, the leader of the Works Militia in Decin received an order to the effect that all units of the Works Militia in Decin should move to Most at 5 a.m. on 10 July. The strength of the militia was 60 men and they were armed with rifles and sub-machine guns. The leader of the Works Militia had the following instructions for pacifying the miners:
 - a. To call a meeting of the miners and explain to them the economic situation in Czechoslovakia and inform them that from August 1953 on a new wage scale would be in force which would mean an increase in wages or a reduction in prices. If wages were increased, the miners would be given first consideration and have the highest rate.
 - b. To break up any groups of two or more men, in order to prevent them from discussing or taking action.
 - c. To arrest or detain anyone disobeying the instructions of the Works Militia.
4. The same situation arose in the mines of Moravska Ostrava and Kladno, and on 13 July a general strike of all the miners in Czechoslovakia was threatened.

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25 YEAR REVIEW